

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. RICHARD HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/ANZ - FRANK C. BENNETT, JR.

1. EA/ANZ GETS UNDERWAY. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF TOM WAJDA TO GW UNIVERSITY FOR TRAINING IN SCIENCE AFFAIRS AND THE ARRIVAL THIS COMING FRIDAY OF CHARLES TWINING FROM A YEAR AT CORNELL, EA/ANZ WILL LEAVE THE DOCK AND GET UNDER WAY. SIMILARLY, WITH BILL BODDE'S RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO THE SOLOMONS WITH YOU, THE ARRIVAL OF HARLAN LEE FROM HONOLULU, AND THE DEPARTURE OF BILL GALLAGHER TO AF/EPS
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THE FORMATION OF EA/PIA IS NOW COMPLETE. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. REVIEW OF DEFENSE INFORMATION COORDINATION WITH THE GOA. AS YOU ARE AWARE, AT THE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE DEPT LEFT WITH DOD A PROPOSED AGREEMENT TO TIGHTEN PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT NORTH WEST CAPE AND THE

JOINT DEFENSE SPACE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT WOOMERA.
THIS NOTE WAS INSPIRED BY DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN'S
PUBLIC DIFFICULTIES IN EXPLAINING WHY HE HAD NOT KNOWN

PERSONALLY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF UPGRADED
EQUIPMENT AT NORTH WEST CAPE. THE SITUATION HAS BEEN
AGGRAVATED BY ARTICLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL TIMES
BY BRIAN TOOHEY WHICH LED KILLEN TO TEMPORARILY DECLARE
A MOD INFORMATION BLACKOUT ON THE FINANCIAL REVIEW. IT
HAS ALSO LED TO SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON A
VARIETY OF JOINTLY OPERATED SYSTEMS THROUGH EMBASSY
CANBERRA AND THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE.
(THE LATEST TWO OF THESE ASK FOR INFORMATION ON THE
IMPLICATIONS THAT KILLER SATELLITES AND THE TRIDENT
SUBMARINE HAVE FOR AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE GOA'S COOPERATION
WITH THE US.) I MET THIS WEEK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PM
AND DOD/ISA ON A SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO THE AUSTRALIAN
REQUEST AND WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OAKLEY AND
COLBERT REGARDING THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM
AS THEY BEAR ON THE ANZUS ALLIANCE. WE WILL BE
ARRANGING A HIGHER LEVEL MEETING WITH DOD/ISA NEXT WEEK.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE AWAITING EMBASSY COMMENT ON THE
SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE GOA REGARDS THIS ISSUE.
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3. AUSTRALIAN REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN
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DEFENSE ALERT STATUS. AUSTRALIAN CHARGE BOB BIRCH HAS
REMINDING US (ON INSTRUCTION) THAT WE STILL OWE THE GOA
A REPLY ON ITS YEAR OLD REQUEST TO BE INFORMED IN A
TIMELY MANNER OF ANY CHANGES IN THE US DEFENSE ALERT
STATUS THAT MAY AFFECT OUR INSTALLATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.
(THE REQUEST AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT SUCH CHANGES
TOOK PLACE DURING THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR WITHOUT THE
GOA BEING INFORMED.) WE ARE CHECKING WITH PM AND DEFENSE
AND HOPE TO HAVE A DEFINITIVE REPLY IN THE NEXT TWO
WEEKS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. COOK ISLANDS ELECTION FRAUD. EMBASSY WELLINGTON WAS
APPROACHED IN MAY REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF AN
AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP ENTREPRENEUR WHO ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED
NZ DOLLARS 329,000 TO ENABLE SIR ALBERT HENRY TO FLY
VOTERS FROM NZ TO THE COOK ISLANDS FOR THE RECENT
ELECTIONS. THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE JUSTICE DEPART-
MENT, WE LEARNED JUST THIS AFTERNOON, IS FOLLOWING UP ON
THESE ALLEGATIONS AND HAS REQUESTED COPIES OF TESTIMONY
TAKEN IN NEW ZEALAND AND OF PRESS ARTICLES RELATED TO THE
CASE, A REQUEST WE WILL BE PASSING ON TO THE EMBASSY.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. SELDEN ARTICLE ON THE "OVERLOOKED PACIFIC".
CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON AN ARTICLE DRAFTED BY
AMBASSADOR SELDEN FOR "THE ASIA MAIL" ENTITLED "THE OVER-
LOOKED PACIFIC" AND THE ARTICLE FORWARDED TO THE PAPER'S

EDITOR. I AM SENDING UP A COPY FOR YOUR PERUSAL.

(UNCLASSIFIED)

CHRISTOPHER

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